

Employment Opportunity - Summer 2016

Position Description

Organization Name: Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation

Position Title: Fisheries Technician

Project: Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Project Team



Background:

The largest growing threat to Atlantic whitefish in the Petite Rivière watershed is the presence of aquatic invasive species, in particular smallmouth bass (SMB) and chain pickerel (CP). Coastal Action, in partnership with Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture (NSDFA), have been researching the level of impact SMB and CP pose on the endangered Atlantic whitefish in Milipsigate, Minamkeak, and Hebb Lakes, where both species are suspected to exist.

The Atlantic whitefish is a rare and unique species; however, little is known of its biology, life-history, and habitat use. Coastal Action's Atlantic Whitefish Recovery Project (AWRP) Team will be working towards filling some of these important information gaps. In 2012, upgrades were made to the Hebbville Dam and a fish passage facility was installed. The fish passage facility re-introduces anadromy to the previously land-locked Atlantic whitefish population. Coastal Action staff will be working in partnership with DFO to monitor fish passage at the dam. In addition to the fish passage facility, a rotary screw trap will be installed below Milipsigate Dam to capture and observe any Atlantic whitefish using this area that historically has been known as a critical habitat for the Atlantic whitefish, as well as to remove any invasive species that are also in this area. Research activities associated with the rotary screw trap will include monitoring, sampling, and identification. To compliment the data generated by the fish passage facility and the rotary screw trap, Coastal Action staff will also be electrofishing and scientific angling several tributary streams and lakes to look for any evidence of Atlantic whitefish using this portion of the river system as habitat, as well as the removal of invasive species.

Specific Duties/Activities:

Duties include, but are not necessarily limited to, population assessments, control of invasive species, project planning, attendance at planning meetings, oral and written reporting, development of education and outreach materials, and representing Coastal Action at public events, meetings, etc.

Specific Duties:

- Assist Project Coordinator with all aspects of fisheries work
- Collect and compile information on the morphology of invasive species in the Petite Riviere watershed
- Assist with the control and removal of invasive species on the Petite, and possibly other local watersheds
- Assist with various methods of fish capture, possibly including Rotary Screw Trap, Fyke Net, Angling, Electrofishing, Trapnets, Seining, etc.
- Assist with biological stomach survey of invasive species
- Assist with the assessment of the Atlantic whitefish population
- Assist with other Fisheries and Oceans Canada contracts
- Report weekly summaries of effort and catch
- Design a display board that can be set up at local festivals, events, and presentations
- Attend local festivals and events promoting and distributing project materials
- Assist with data entry
- Updating social media sites

Education and community awareness is one of Coastal Action's main goals and activities. As part of the Coastal Action team, the successful applicant would also be responsible for doing his/her part in helping deliver the organization's education and awareness messages. This could take the form of drafting appropriate project related website material for inclusion on the Coastal Action website, representing the organization and the project at various festivals and events throughout the year, delivering project presentations at various meetings, and/or conducting in-class presentations/activities in local schools.

Also, as Bluenose Coastal Action Foundation is a fairly small non-profit organization with an extremely team oriented office, the successful applicant could at any time be asked to help out on another project if he/she is not extremely busy with the Atlantic whitefish project at that time.

Requirements:

- Must be flexible and able to adapt to a changing work schedule
- Must be willing to perform all job duties
- Must be willing to work in all weather conditions
- Must have strong writing skills and attention to detail
- Must have a valid driver's license and access to a vehicle for work purposes
- Must be able to work as part of a team as well as independently
- Must be able to manage time efficiently
- Must be able to communicate well both orally and in writing

Assets:

- Knowledge and identification of native and non-native fish species
- Fish handling experience
- Knowledge of GPS and GIS technologies
- Knowledge of excel spreadsheet
- Ability to present data in various reports

**** Assets are not required to be considered for this position****

Applicants must be energetic, motivated, and have a background in environmental science, fisheries, biology, aquaculture or another related discipline. Successful applicants should be able to work well with others as well as individually, comfortable in dealing with land owners and the general public, and have a love or appreciation for nature and working outside. Strong writing skills, a strong attention to detail, experience in conducting field surveys, and experience in data analysis are desired assets to the position.

Application Deadline: February 5th, 2016

Work Term: April 25th to August 26th, 2016

Location: Lunenburg, Nova Scotia

Salary: \$14.00 per hour for a 35 hr work week

For more information please contact:

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